

AN UNUSUAL BROOD OF *LYCAENA PHLAEAS* L. — I recently recorded the capture of a female specimen of *L. phlaeas* ab. *radiata* Tutt (*Ent. Rec.*, 86: 248). The butterfly was caged and during the course of a few days it deposited about 100 eggs. Forty of these hatched, and after a few losses among the small larvae the others thrived, feeding up without showing any inclination to hibernate. Eventually 27 pupae resulted during early September from which the butterflies emerged later that month. Meanwhile a pairing cage had been prepared, with potted foodplant and receptacles for flowers. Alas, this effort was in vain for all 27 pupae produced females!

As might be expected there were no ab. *radiata* but all the specimens were particularly large and some conformed to ab. *caeruleopunctata* Ruhl. Most of them were released in the locality from which the parent came in the hope that one or two might find mates and thus add to the store of *radiata* genes. — T. D. FEARNEHOUGH, 26 Green Lane, Shanklin, Isle of Wight.

Current Literature

Discovering Garden Insects and Other Invertebrates by Anthony Wootton. Shire Publications Ltd. 79 pp. + 18 b. & w. plates. Paperback, 45p.

The author, who is editor of *The Countryside*, has managed, by thoughtful selection, to include a fair range of invertebrates likely to come to the notice of gardeners in most parts of England.

After a chapter on classification, there follows a survey of the fauna of the various micro-habitats of the garden, the flower border, soil, under stones, in out-houses, in compost heaps, etc. The 58 photographs are of excellent quality. The final chapter suggests ways of studying and attracting insects, which oddly omits M.V. traps. There is a glossary, a bibliography of books for further identification and an account of Societies and Journals for those who wish to look further. It should be noted that the *Entomologist* has ceased publication.

We question the suggestions that: the privet hawk is rare; that Catocalids hide by day in wood stacks, or that *Ophion luteus* is harmless — it can be very painful as most night collectors know by experience. In general, however, this is a useful little reference book for the non-specialist. — E.H.W.